Historical Society of Palm Desert

P.O. Box 77
Palm Desert, CA 92261
(760) 346-6588

The Hourglass

Community
Service
Collections
Archives

FALL 2002 VOL. 10, NO. 3

FALL LUNCHEON & INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD & OFFICERS

Date: Wednesday - October 23, 2002 Place: Desert Falls Country Club

Time: 11:00 a.m. Social - 12 noon Lunch Cost: $20 (make reservations now)

Speaker: Carl Garczynski, our favorite TV weatherman, 30-year resident of the Coachella Valley, mountain climber, and meteorologist extraordinary. Mr. Garczynski will fill us in on local history as he experienced it.

Co-Chairs: Yvonne Kelley and Helene Harrison are taking care of all the details, including an especially delicious meal.

Installation of officers: Hal Rover - President Joyce White - Vice President
Bonnie Bowie - Secretary Bob Wilmeth - Treasurer
Ginny Folkers - Past President

New Board Members: Harold Bird Roger Hirdler Bill O'Neil
Lois Bradstreet Bud Lesser Jim Young
Helene Harrison Kay Young

Returning Board Members: Barbara Keedy Eastes Jean Ernst

NEW HOURS AT THE OLD FIRE HOUSE

Beginning in September the Society will initiate new days when the museum will be open to the public:

Mondays Wednesdays Fridays 10:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.

Also we have tentative plans to be open the 1st & 3rd Saturdays, noon to 3 p.m, in November to entice weekend visitors to come in and see our exhibits, videos, archives, photos, and reference library. Special tours can be arranged by calling the office .

FRESH IDEAS — EXCITING CHANGES

The Society's "up-and-coming new president", Hal Rover, has been spending the hot summer months over-seeing a major renovation at our headquarters. If you have passed the historic fire house when the bay door was up, you probably did a double-take because the antique fire engine is no longer parked in the bay and immediately behind the overhead door a glass store front has been installed.

This project will enable us to accommodate groups of people for seminars, orientations, members' meetings, school classes, tourists, etc. There will be more exhibit space on and along the walls as well. The ceiling will be lowered and carpeting installed. Plan to visit and check the new accomodations.

FIRE HOUSE YARD SALE
"Don't miss it !!"

Saturday - October 26, 2002 7:00 A.M. till 12-noon
Chairperson: Karen Hirdler

We have been collecting items to sell for the past months, and encourage you to consider what you might have to donate to this fund-raiser. Any saleable items are acceptable ..... everything except clothing and shoes. Appliances, furniture, kitchen ware, books, toys, games, jewelry, art work, exercise & sports equipment, tools, etc. Whatever is cluttering up your house or garage might be just what someone else wants. Call the office to arrange a time to drop off your discards or if you need pick-up service. Volunteers are needed too.

Our gratitude is extended to Kermit Martin and Waste Management of the Desert for providing a large storage unit in which we are keeping the things people give us for the sale. Without this generous offer, we could not have considered a yard sale this year.

MINI-MUSTER FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM

The Society's main community out-reach program is being planned by Fire Station #33 and Desert Sands Unified School District. These three entities work together to present comprehensive education in fire safety for third-graders in four of our area schools....Washington, Lincoln, Ford and Carter. One morning at each school, including lunch, celebrates "Fire Safety Month" and provides the children with an enjoyable activity and valuable information. This is the perfect volunteer opportunity for those who enjoy working with youngsters. Call us and offer to help.

BLUEPRINTS FOR PALM DESERT HOMES

In mid-September we will be mailing postcards to residents whose home blueprints we have located in the Palm Desert Property Owners collection. These valuable plans can save thousands in architectural fees for remodels or additions, and in locating electrical and plumbing lines. Also, offering a set with the sale of your house is a definite asset. Details regarding a donation to the Society for this service will be noted on the postcard. Thanks to Joyce White, Lois Bradstreet and Hal Rover for the hours they've invested in this project.

BY–LAW REVISIONS

Attached you will find these changes. Please vote and bring this document to the luncheon with you. As times and modes of operation change over the years, we find adjustments are necessary. Many thanks to Joyce White for devoting her time to this tedious task.

PALM DESERT: A Kid's Perspective

by Lulu M. Flatt

"Ready – Set – GO!" During 110° summer days, my friends and I would race barefoot down the hot asphalt street with towels around our necks. When our feet got too hot, we'd throw the towels down and stand on them. Front lawns were at a premium in those days.

I was two years old when my family moved to Palm Desert in 1964. There are two things I especially remember about our first house. One was that it had foil on the windows to deflect the sun. The other was that I was not to open the carport closet because of the black widow spiders lurking inside.

Two years later we moved into our house on Candlewood, where we have lived ever since. My whole world consisted of our house, my school (now Washington Charter), College of the Desert where my dad taught, and the Village Market down on San Pablo where we shopped.

Growing up in Palm Desert was fun. My friends and I played tag in the old orange grove down the street, and used the dried up fruit to bean each other. We built forts behind creosote bushes in empty lots, rolled down the sand dunes off Miles Avenue, hiked in Tahquitz Canyon, explored the sand buried houses on the east side of Bob Hope Drive, and ran up and down the mounds by the San Andreas fault line near the oasis. I remember our school inviting Andy the Donkey Man to the annual Halloween Fair, and we would get to ride his donkeys. When my family installed a pool, I took swimming lessons at C.O.D.

The best part of living here were the critters native to the desert. A heavy lizard population included the three-toed, white iguanas. My sister always made a big production of trying to catch one, but when it sensed danger and darted away, she would jump sky high. When I saw one basking in the sun, I would just pluck it up and put it on my shoulder. One day my mom brought home a big, black, hairy tarantula. It felt like fingers crawling up my arm. A little rosy boa would slither into my sister's hair and stick its head out like a periscope.

Since then, I have grown up and so has Palm Desert. Now stores and houses have taken over the desert floor, and tennis courts and golf courses cover the sand dunes. The critters have been relegated to the Living Desert Reserve; however, I am thrilled to see a roadrunner every now and then. As the years pass, my best memories of Palm Desert will always be from a kid's perspective.

DOCENT / VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Chairperson - Jean Ernst

Training sessions are being planned for Society volunteers. With all the extra exhibits and programs that will be offered, more docents and volunteers for various activities will be required. This kind of community service can be very rewarding – try it, you'll like it. Call and put your name on the list.

NEW MEMBERS

- Frances G. Webb.....*Contributing*
- Godecke Clark C.P.A.'s.....*Business*
  - James West / Karen Prinzmetal
  - Calvin Gogerty / Jean Waggoner
  - Roy Bruno
  - Jim Lewis
  - Dr. Doug Kroll

MEMORIALS

Del Sharbutt.....Dick & Ginny Folkers

TRIBUTES

Dick Folkers' retirement .....William & Paula Kroonen

DONATIONS

Jaymie Kateen Silva....letter, White Sun GR
James West.....history of Sandpiper
Joy Smith.....Del Sharbutt memorabilia
Helen Cunningham.....articles, programs
Hal Rover.....large collection of articles
Joyce White.....large collection of articles

Everyone can use friends — but they really shouldn't.

PART-TIME SECRETARY

At the time of publication of this newsletter, the Society is looking for someone to fill this position. Applicants should be friendly, able to greet visitors, answer the phone, be comfortable using a computer, do basic accounting, and adept at letter composition. Please call the office for details and an interview.

HISTORY OF ICE CREAM

7th century.....China, chilled milk/cream/flavor
16th century.....Italy, freeze in bath of ice/salt
before 1840's.....just for royalty and wealthy
1843....England, Thomas Masters invented a machine for retailers
1846.....U.S., Nancy Johnson invented the hand-cranked machine we have today
1851.....first ice cream factory in Baltimore
1902.....mechanical refrigeration
1904.....ice cream cone, St. Louis World's Fair (used a waffle from another booth)
1921.....U.S.,first ice cream bar–Eskimo Pie
Consumption...Americans eat 23.2 qts./year

Hope you had a great summer !!!
Ginny Folkers, editor

Historical Society of Palm Desert
P. O. Box 77
Palm Desert, CA 92261